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REDEYE PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

Love it or hate it,
it's once again hip to have a hairy lip

MACHO 'MACHO STACHE

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Obama sounds
the economy alarm **3**

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battle for supremacy **15**

Move over Fresh Prince,
here's the King of Bel Air **32**

PANEL: IMPEACH G-ROD

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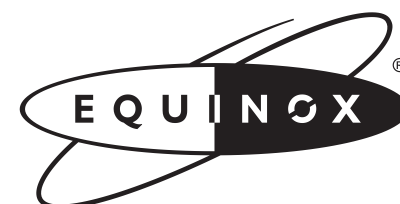
THE LOOP

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Barack Obama speaks Thursday about the economy at George Mason University in Fairfax, Va. AP

ECONOMY EMERGENCY

OBAMA STRESSES URGENT NEED TO PASS GIANT STIMULUS PACKAGE—OR ELSE

Associated Press

President-elect Obama urged Congress on Thursday to work with him “day and night, on weekends if necessary” to approve the largest taxpayer-funded stimulus ever, warning in almost apocalyptic terms that a dire economic future was certain without it.

Obama’s speech, an extraordinary move for a president-in-waiting that reflected the grim urgency of the times, came amid a flurry of new activity in the negotiations on Capitol Hill over the massive proposal’s details. And not long after Obama spoke, some senators from his own party criticized his plan to include big tax cuts.

Emerging from a private meeting of the Senate Finance Committee, several Democrats expressed deep skepticism that the kind of business and individual tax cuts Obama has been discussing would do much to create jobs or increase consumer spending.

Making a case for action, Obama warned in his speech that “a bad situation could become dramatically worse” if Washington doesn’t go far enough. He talked of the possibility of double-digit unemployment and \$1 trillion in lost

OTHER ACTION

Obama laid out goals of doubling the production of alternative energy over three years, making 75 percent of federal buildings and 2 million homes more energy efficient, computerizing all medical records in five years, expanding broadband networks and updating schools and universities.

economic activity, stark predictions that recalled the days of the Great Depression in the 1930s.

But, he said, “We are still the nation that has overcome great fears and improbable odds. If we act with the urgency and seriousness that this moment requires, I know that we can do it again.”

Since his November election, Obama has deferred to President Bush on foreign policy matters such as the Middle East. But, with the economic situation worsening, Obama has waded in deeply on that front, an issue certain to define and dominate his early presidency.

It was the fourth day in a row that he had made a pitch for a huge infusion of taxpayer dollars to revive the sinking economy he will inherit from Bush.

Obama shed no new light on the details of his plan that could cost as much as \$775 billion over two years. And, he said little about the unprecedented red ink and rising debt

confronting the government, even after spending days reassuring the public and Congress that he is committed to tackling long-term deficits once the economy rebounds.

CASUAL FRIDAY

Cabinet surfing

President-elect Obama has his eye on CNN’s Dr. Sanjay Gupta for Surgeon General. While it’s not a Cabinet-level position, RedEye wondered what other pop culture personalities we could name to Obama’s cabinet. Here are some suggestions.

Department of Agriculture

Willie Nelson. The guy grows his own stuff.



Department of Commerce

Steve Jobs. He can make money out of anything



» Department of Defense

Chuck Norris. Or you’ll be sorry.

Department of Education

Kanye West. Dude knows Graduation.

Department of Energy

Billie Mays. There’s no one on TV more energetic than the bushy-haired commercial pitchman.

Department of Health and Human Services

Dr. Phil. (In his voice) You have got to come to grips that this is the right fit for the country!

Department of Homeland Security

The Allstate guy—you’re in good hands with him.

Department of Housing and Urban Development

Ty Pennington from “Extreme Makeover: Home Edition”—don’t like your house? Here’s a new one.

Department of the Interior

Martha Stewart. We need an Interior decorator.

Department of Justice

Judge Judy. DO IT! NOW!

» Department of Labor

Aflac duck. He’ll make sure your benefits are all they’re quacked up to be.

Department of State

Sarah Palin. She can see your state from wherever she is.

» Department of Transportation

Geico Cavemen. This job’s so easy ...



Department of the Treasury

Oprah. She has enough money to start her own economy.

Department of Veterans Affairs

Bill Clinton. He’s a veteran of at least one affair.



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A return policy worth keeping

Raise your glass to Joe and Jane Q. Public.

Do a celebratory shimmy for the working stiffs.

Yes, the economy is in the toilet, job losses are staggeringly high and the housing market is a joke. But today the score on the board reads:

The People I, The Man o

This in the wake of this week's news that Hyundai has introduced an "assurance" program that allows car buyers to return their purchase within the first year of ownership for select financial reasons that include involuntary unemployment or international relocation, according to a Tribune report. Buyers must make at least two payments and be up-to-date on loan or lease payments to qualify for a return, the Trib reported.

Still, it's a coup for consumers. Our suppliers are finally getting the message and directly addressing our pared-down purchasing habits. There are, however, even more big-ticket items that would benefit from one-year return policies.

Home run

Houses are among the most nerve-racking purchases ever because of the immense investment. Just take a look at the shaky signature at my most recent condo closing.

But committing to your dream habitat wouldn't be as hard if sellers allowed for house returns for reasons including and beyond losing your livelihood. Of course, you shouldn't return the house because you initially (and erroneously) thought carrying groceries up two flights of stairs was NBD.

But there should be an out clause if you discover too late that your neighbors across the street are running a meth clinic or you need a "Good Will Hunting" grasp of geometry to fit into your designated parking space.

Same goes for finding out your condo is cursed with paper-thin walls and your next-door neighbor is a disco DJ. That's something only Gloria Gaynor could survive.

Gym dandy

Being fit is a priority, particularly this month amid New Year vows to do a better job burning calories.

Indeed, the Interwebs are awash in offers of gym membership perks, with one local spot even offering free teeth-whitening and hair extensions if you join in January.

But longer locks aside, long-term gym memberships are a major sticking point for me and other Average Janes and Joes I know. Even month-to-month scenarios seem to stick it to wannabe gym joiners through upfront sign-up fees.

Make it easy, fitness clubs of America. Let first-year members quit for an assortment of non-life-threatening reasons, including a growing hatred of fluorescent lighting or a desire to head-butt spin class instructors.

Watch enrollment double in the time it takes to say "Richard Simmons" five times fast.

TELL KYRA

What products or services would you like to see come with a one-year return policy? Share your comment with Kyra at kkyles@tribune.com, and please include your full name, age and neighborhood, in case we decide to print it.



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Return of the FUR

Despite the stereotypes, mustaches are no longer an endangered fashion statement

By **Alexia Elejalde-Ruiz**
REDEYE

Jonny Vasquez has boldly gone where few men have gone since the '70s.

Vasquez, 25, of Wicker Park has, on and off over the past three years, proudly rocked a mustache—no beard, no goatee, just a serious, Tom Selleck-style 'stache.

"Sleazy and cheesy, all the way," Vasquez said at a bar on a recent night, his light-brown whiskers in a wispy, growing-out phase.

No, Vasquez is not a police officer or a fireman or a disco-era porn star—or worse.

"People always ask me if I'm a pedophile,"

Vasquez said with a laugh.

The restaurant and bar manager is just endlessly amused by the fur above his lip, and the reactions of horror and glee it elicits from others.

"Most men say it's awesome and buy me shots," Vasquez said.

And the women?

"They say I should shave."

Sorry, gals, but the mustached male is enjoying a bit of a renaissance, mustache enthusiasts say, thanks largely to high-powered celebrities and politicians who are raising the profile of the oft-maligned 'stache.

"It has certainly been a fantastic year for mustached Americans in that we've seen a popular resurgence of the lip sweater as a fashion statement," said Aaron Perlut, chairman of the American Mustache Institute, a mustache-appreciation organization based in St. Louis, home of the nation's largest mustache (a.k.a. the Gateway Arch).

Washington has several newly powerful mustaches, including those on Rep. Henry Waxman, new chairman of the powerful Energy and Commerce Committee, and Eric Holder, nominated for attorney general under Barack Obama—who might not even be the next president were it not for political strategist David Axelrod and his bushy 'stache.

In Hollywood, Brad Pitt has thrown his pretty-boy weight behind the revival, donning a mustache on the cover of January's *Rolling Stone* and telling "Extra" it's his goal to restore respect for the style.

"We've always said that the key to bringing the mustache back would be celebrity support," Perlut said. From Pitt to Robert Downey Jr. to Orlando Bloom to Jason Giambi, the Yankees first baseman whose game improved dramatically last year when he grew out his mustache, the 'stache had a stellar 2008, he said.

Apart from hipsters and their ironic mustaches and many uncles, for whom mustaches are as natural as wearing underwear, the typical American male has shied away from what's gained a reputation as a sure sign of skeeviness.

So when Joe Baker, 28, committed to growing a mustache for the charity fundraiser Mustaches for Kids, he was surprised to find himself growing quite fond of it.

"It's like a pet," said Baker of Humboldt Park, who conditions his mustache, trims the edges every couple of days, and has even purchased product to style his luxurious lip mane.

Most of the 45 "growers" who grew mustaches for a month this winter for Mustaches for Kids, which benefits Chicago schools,

shaved immediately after the Dec. 15 'Stache Bash at Schubas, the charity's grand finale party. But Baker, one of the organizers, has kept his and is considering making it his regular style.

"With a mustache, I could do anything; I could work construction, I could try out to become a Chicago cop," Baker said. "It makes me feel a little more manly, a little more confident."

Baker, by the way, does public health research.

Baker's girlfriend, Gayatri Naidu, isn't taking his threats of a year-round mustache seriously.

Like many women, Naidu, 24, does not like Baker's 'stache, which she says "makes him look like a cross between Ron Burgandy, a porn star and my dad." And it has proven a "physical hazard" for Naidu, who says she has "microscopic abrasions" all over her face.

"I don't exactly 'put up with it' so much as retaliate by biting and scratching him," said Naidu, who lives in Old Town. "I follow the 'eye for an eye' philosophy."

Plenty of men, too, would rather leave the mustache dead and buried alongside butterfly collars and male perms. "It looks good on some dads, but I don't think it looks good on anyone in their 20s," said Ryan Indovina, a manager at Schoolyard Tavern in Lakeview.

But Indovina does find mustaches hilarious, so for the past four years his bar has held "Merry Mustachmas," when anyone who visits the bar wearing a mustache gets free beer (women can wear fakes or have a mustache drawn on with marker). This year's Mustachmas, held Dec. 12 and 13, drew 15 to 20 homegrown mustaches, Indovina said. Mustaches have become a fixture of the party and charity circuit.

At the sixth annual Robert Goulet Soiree, to be held Feb. 28 at Mystic Celt in Lakeview, men wear mustaches, turtlenecks and blazers and women wear perms and sequined dresses, said party organizer John Connolly. Some 150 men arrived at last year's party with real

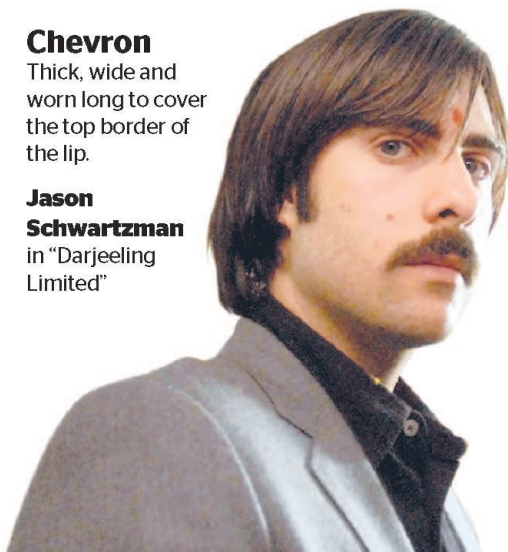
Defining moments of 'stache

Every mustache is as unique as the man (or woman) who wears it. With guidance from the American Mustache Institute, here's a look at some mustache styles, and one we added ourselves. **ALEXIA ELEJALDE-QUIZ**

Chevron

Thick, wide and worn long to cover the top border of the lip.

Jason Schwartzman in "Darjeeling Limited"



Dali

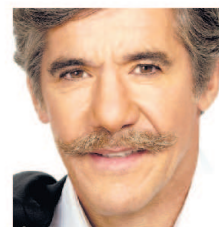
Named after Salvador Dali, the long, narrow mustache curves steeply upwards.



"V for Vendetta"

English

A fav of Brit soldiers, this narrow, divided 'stache has whiskers pulled to either side.



Geraldo Rivera

Fu manchu

The long whiskers, grown strictly from the upper lip, hang down on either side.



Master Shifu (Dustin Hoffman) in "Kung Fu Panda"

Horseshoe

A full mustache, shaped like an upside-down horseshoe.



Hulk Hogan



**MACHO, MACHO
TWITTER**

We asked our Twitter followers to give us some lip—as in what do you think of when you see a mustache? Here are some of the great responses. Let your hair down with RedEye at twitter.com/redeyechicago.

@JGHue Tom Selleck as Magnum P.I.

@Phantomtweeter Hello, Baxter? Baxter, is that you? Bark twice if you're in Milwaukee.

@dcwriterdawn I think of my (female) ex-boss whose 'stash was so robust, it could hold her cigarette for her

@freeNINETY9 flavor saver. for sure. With a mustache you can always give it a lick and taste whatever you were eating earlier. :)

@nmck crumbs

@SkotRogers mustaches make me think of asking "can't you feel that?" to the guy with the cheese dangling off of his totally unaware

@travelplacesguy Burt Reynolds...Magnum PI, Aunt Bunny and 70s Porn

@aprilids I think SCUMSTACHE!

@kamilf envy, since i suck at growing one.

COMPILED BY SCOTT KLEINBERG, REDEYE

mustaches, up from 20 its first year, Connolly said.

Mustaches have claimed November with “Movember,” a global fundraising movement begun in Australia that calls on men to grow a “mo” (Australian slang for “mustache”) for the month to raise money for men’s health issues. There’s Bearduary in January and International Mustache Month in February.

Jason Polevoi, a recent Columbia College graduate who is making a documentary about his recent experience participating in Mustaches for Kids, thinks the appeal of mustache-based charities lies in their assertion of manliness.

“I think men tend to think of charity work as something feminine, and growing facial hair is a very masculine way to get around that,” said Polevoi, 22, who lives in Lakeview.

But Polevoi doesn’t think mustaches will ever come back seriously. Polevoi, whose charity mustache was all the more humbling because it grew out as almost invisibly blond whiskers, said he felt firsthand the stigma of the ’stache.

“I thought people, especially women, were avoiding sitting next to me on the train,” Polevoi said.

The American Mustache Institute is dedicated to fighting such “discrimination against mustached Americans,” who are often unfairly stereotyped as “rednecks or not well educated,” Perlut said. Perlut traces the mustache’s fall from grace to the departure of Walter Cronkite from TV in 1981, before which time the lip mane was considered a distinguished grooming choice.

Mustaches ought to be celebrated as a form of self-expression—like tattoos, but not permanent, Perlut said. His favorite mustache style is currently the horseshoe, which looks like an upside-down “u” connecting one side of his jaw with the other.

“To me that says, ‘I’m about to run you over with my Harley,’” Perlut said. “I don’t have a Harley, so my mustache compensates.”

AELEJALDERUIZ@TRIBUNE.COM



***“With a mustache,
I could do anything:
I could work
construction, I could
try out to become
a Chicago cop.”***

JOE BAKER
on feeling empowered
by the mustache
he grew for
a charity event

CHASE
AGNELLO-DEAN/
REDEYE

Handlebar

Bushy and long enough to curl the ends upward.



Franz Nicolay
of The Hold Steady

Imperial

Mustache grows from the lip and cheeks, and cheek whiskers are styled upward.



Gene Shalit

**Painter’s
brush**

Covers the width of the mouth with rounded corners.



Brad Pitt

Pencil

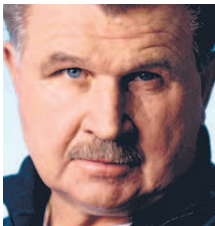
Thin mustache that outlines the upper lip. Also called a “mouthbrow.”



**Terrence
Howard**

Pyramidal

Shaped narrow at the top and wide at the bottom.



Mike Ditka

Toothbrush

Inch-wide mustache centered over lips, forever condemned because of Hitler.



Charlie Chaplin

Walrus

Big, bushy, droopy ’stache hangs down over the lips.



**Daniel
Day-Lewis**
in “There Will
Be Blood”

**Gentle
whisper**

Faint wisp of a mustache, in the spirit of gender parity.



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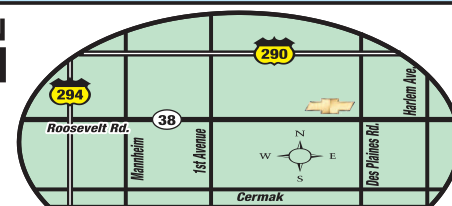
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*Plus tax, title, lic & doc fee. Includes applicable factory rebates in lieu of financing offers. Dealer will not honor pricing errors in this advertisement. Photos for illustration purposes only and may not reflect actual vehicle. Prices and offers expire 2 days from publication date. All offers apply to new retail deliveries taken from dealer stock within the applicable time period. Offers do not apply to fleet or prior sales. **To qualified buyers with approved credit, payments based on \$2,000 down for 60 months at 5.94% APR for pricing \$4,995 - \$10,995; 84 months at 6.69% APR for pricing \$11,995 and above. Plus tax, title, lic & doc fee. -Must be an identical equipped vehicle in stock. Dealer reserves the right to verify deal. ***To qualified buyers on select models. Example: \$13.89 per \$1,000 financed with \$0 down. *Which ever comes first. See dealer for limited warranty details. **Whichever comes first from original in-service date. 2003-2008 models only. Some 2003 models will not be eligible based on their in-service date. See your dealer for limited warranty details. +Dealer profit is not limited to amount over invoice. ^+Available to qualifying Credit Union members. See dealer for complete details. **0% Financing for 60 months at \$16.67 per \$1000 financed at \$0 down on select models through GMAC. To qualified buyers with approved credit. See dealer for details. ^To qualified buyers with approved credit on select pre-owned models. +Dealer profit is not limited to amount over invoice.

Parents allege strip-search

The parents of two girls who claim they were strip-searched by an off-duty female police officer working as a security guard at a Chicago Public Schools charter school filed a federal lawsuit Thursday charging that their constitutional rights were violated. Three girls—all friends and freshmen at Aspira Early College High School—were pulled from class Dec. 20, 2007, by a school administrator searching for a lighter that allegedly had been used by another student to start a small fire in a boys bathroom.

White powder false alarm

A threatening letter with what officials later said was a harmless powder was sent to Rep. Bobby Rush's South Side office Thursday, prompting an emergency hazmat response. A Rush spokesman said the powder was believed to be an artificial sweetener.

Teens shoot 2 for 'fun'

Two teenage cousins were charged with shooting two people with a pellet gun Tuesday night in Bucktown and Wicker Park because they thought it would be fun, police said Thursday. One victim remains hospitalized with a pellet lodged in his liver, and a pellet cannot be removed from the second victim's back because of its proximity to her spine, officials said. **TRIBUNE**

Twitter word association

You know the game. We say a word and you say the first thing that comes to mind. With 4 to 8 inches of snow expected Friday, the word we posed to our Twitter followers was snow. And here are some of the responses. Wanna play? Sign up at twitter.com/redeyechicago.

@swschmidt
yellow

@AaronSchalk
Cone!

@danno1227
nooooo!

@djshelly
ice

@sevyynn7s
blow!

@Das007
rage

@sashalyn
bunnies!

@FoxBrownFox
UNPLOWED!

COMPILED BY SCOTT KLEINBERG, REDEYE

PANEL: IMPEACH

FULL HOUSE TO VOTE NEXT ON WHETHER TO OUST GOVERNOR

Associated Press

SPRINGFIELD The Illinois House should impeach Gov. Blagojevich for abusing his power, mismanaging Illinois government and committing possible criminal acts, a special committee concluded Thursday.

The House could vote Friday to make Blagojevich the first governor impeached in the long, sordid history of Illinois politics. Impeachment in the House would trigger a Senate trial to decide whether the second-term Democrat should be removed from office.

The 21-member committee voted unanimously to recommend impeachment. Many called it "a sad day" for Illinois, but Rep. Bill Black disagreed.

"I think this is a good, glad, happy day for Illinois because it points out that nobody is above the law," the Danville Republican said.

Blagojevich has denied any wrongdoing. Spokesman Lucio Guerrero didn't immediately comment on the committee's action but said there was no chance the governor would resign before the full House vote expected Friday.

"The citizens of this state must have confidence that their governor will faithfully serve the people and put their interests before his own," the committee's report said. "It is with profound regret that the committee finds that our current governor has not done so."

Blagojevich was arrested Dec. 9 on federal charges that include allegations he schemed to profit from his power to name President-elect Obama's replacement in the Senate.

The committee finished its work as chances grew dimmer that lawmakers will get transcripts of the FBI's secret recordings of private Blagojevich conversations that allegedly include scheming to trade government action



Roland Burris prepares to testify Thursday before an Illinois House panel. **MICHAEL TERCHA/TRIBUNE**

Burris: Nothing improper

U.S. Senate appointee Roland Burris testified Thursday that he didn't strike any agreement with Gov. Blagojevich to win the position, and said he's never been involved in an improper deal in his two decades in government.

His testimony under oath was one of the key requirements Senate Democrats, who initially balked at any choice by the scandal-clouded Blagojevich, set out for Burris as a condition to accept his appointment.

"I can before this committee state that there was nothing ... legal, personal or political

exchanged for my appointment to this seat," Burris told an Illinois House committee. Burris declined to answer questions about whether he would have gone to federal authorities if he'd been offered such a deal.

Blagojevich picked Burris to fill President-elect Obama's vacant Senate seat after being arrested on charges that include allegations he schemed to sell the seat to the highest bidder.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid said Thursday that he hadn't decided whether Burris' testimony improved the chances he would be seated.

for campaign contributions.

U.S. District Chief Judge James Holderman on Thursday set a schedule for legal skirmishing on the issue that could run into early February.

Meanwhile, Blagojevich's defense attorneys in Chicago urged Holderman to throw

U.S. Attorney Patrick Fitzgerald and all of his assistants off the case, charging in a motion that Fitzgerald violated rules about pre-trial publicity at a Dec. 9 news conference announcing the charges.

Federal prosecutors immediately retorted that the effort was "meritless."

Health commissioner pitches meaty challenge

Chicago Tribune

Chicago health commissioner Dr. Terry Mason is going cold turkey. So to speak. As part of his campaign to slim down waists and lower blood pressure, blood sugar and cholesterol, Mason is encouraging everyone to join him in going vegetarian in January.

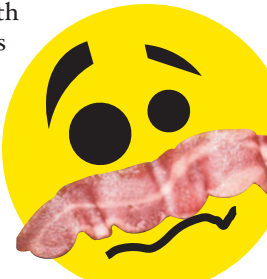
"For the entire month, I'm not

eating any meat," he has told listeners to his radio show, "Doctor in the House," on WVON-AM. "If it walks, runs, hops, flies, swims, crawls or slithers, I won't eat it. If it has eyes, I won't eat it. If it had a momma and a daddy, I won't eat it."

Vegetarianism isn't radical, of course. But a meatless meal isn't

something that has caught on with urban blacks, the group Mason is targeting. African-Americans suffer disproportionately from diabetes, high cholesterol and other health problems linked to fatty foods.

This is Mason's fourth year campaigning for a meatless January.



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Monika Carney
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www.NewInRogersPark.com



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steel appliances, in the heart of Rogers Park for as low as **\$491* a month!**

*with 20% down, does not include property taxes or monthly association, buyers must qualify.



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847-813-9490

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Luxury Condominiums

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Evanston IL, 60202



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parking, all for **\$718* a month!**

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Ivana Majic
847-316-8500

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balconies and indoor parking! All for **\$827* a month!**

*with 20% down, does not include property taxes or monthly association, buyers must qualify.

Tony Creagh
708-256-1136

Paulina Ave.

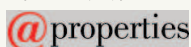
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Beautifully restored all brick corner building with stunning architecture, cherry hardwood floors, stainless steel appliances, custom mill work, extra tall bay windows, imported faucets, soaker jetted tubs, All this and

more for **\$1,057* a month!** *with 20% down, does not include property taxes or monthly association, buyers must qualify.



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312-420-6211

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for **\$1,133* a month!**

*with 20% down, does not include property taxes or monthly association, buyers must qualify.

Ivana Majic
847-316-8500

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1785 Rogers, Lot A, Glenview IL 60025

Stunning new five bedroom, six bath home on lovely lot! Travertine, Brazilian cherry floors. Open floor plan; huge granite kitchen open to grand family room. Three fireplaces, first level fifth bed/office, lovely master suite, all bedrooms en-suite, mud room. Basement with rec room, office/sixth bed, sauna! all this for



\$4,530* a month!

*with 20% down, does not include property taxes, buyers must qualify.



Martha May
847-533-0559

Gorgeous Glenview Home

710 Windsor, Glenview, IL 60025

Gorgeous new five bedroom, five and one half bath Colonial in prestigious East Glenview. Travertine, Brazilian cherry floors. First level office or fifth bedroom. Granite kitchen with island. Five fireplaces, wet bars, steam shower, central vacuum. Huge basement has rec room, sauna, bath, sixth bedroom. Three-car garage. All this for



\$7,598 a month!*

*with 20% down, does not include property taxes, buyers must qualify.



Martha May
847-533-0559

Gorgeous Glenview Home

1555 Woodlawn, Glenview, IL 60025

Stunning custom designed new residence in E. Glenview. Lannon stone & brick 6BR/5.1BA home on lush grounds features exquisite workmanship. Wonderfully appointed main level w/gourmet kitch, family rm w/coffered ceiling, office & guest suite. Second flr offers spacious rms & impressive master ste. Private terraces. LL media/rec room, sauna. 4 fpl's. 3 car gar. All this for only



\$7,552* a month!

*with 20% down, does not include property taxes, buyers must qualify.



Dina Davis
847-239-0913

Obama wants digital delayed

7 **WASHINGTON** President-elect Obama is urging Congress to postpone the Feb. 17 switch from analog to digital TV broadcasting.

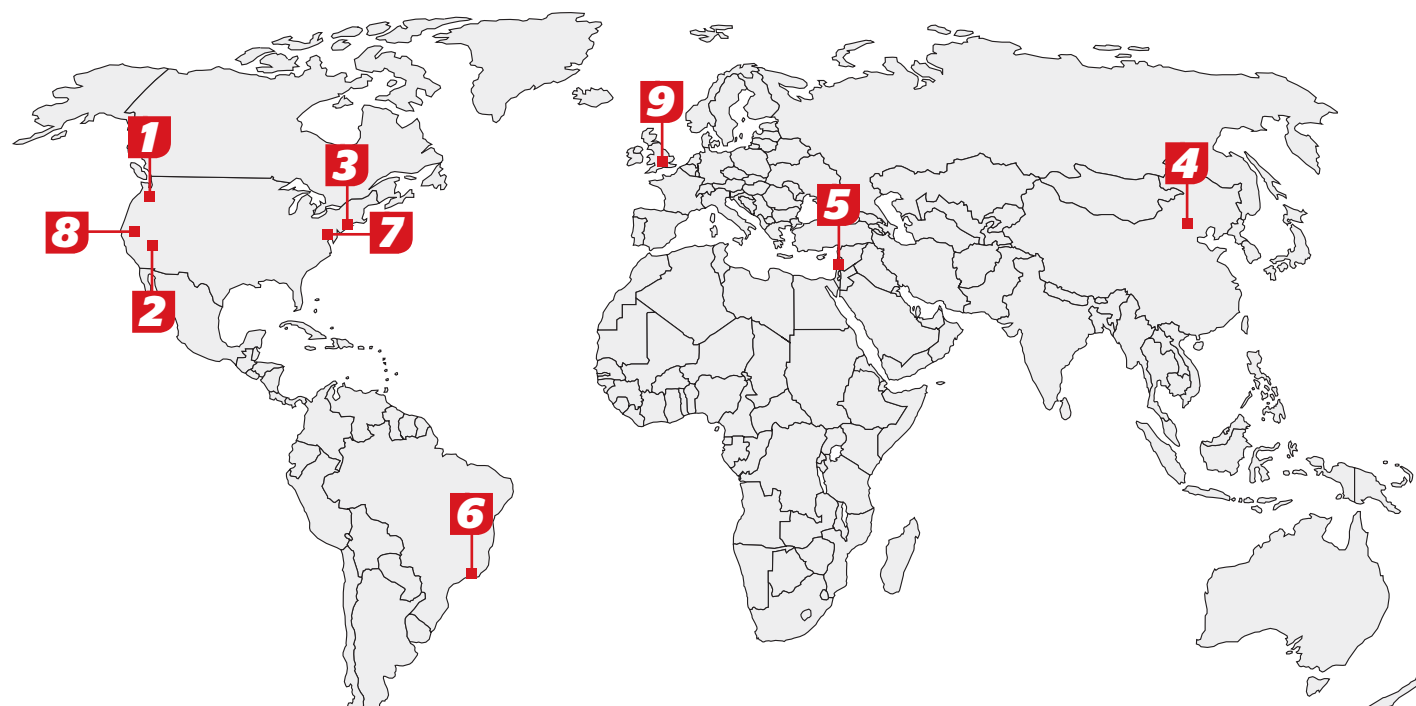
In a letter to key lawmakers, transition team co-chair John Podesta warned Thursday that too many Americans who

rely on analog TV sets to pick up over-the-air broadcasts won't be ready.

The incoming administration is pushing for a delay in part because the Commerce Department has run out of money for the coupons that subsidize digital TV converter boxes for consumers. People

who don't have cable or satellite TV or a new TV with a digital tuner will need the converter boxes to keep their analog TVs working.

Obama officials also are concerned that the government is not giving consumers enough help with the TV transition.



Shooting sparks anger



8 **OAKLAND, Calif.** Ryan Hall (above) on Wednesday protests the Bay Area Rapid Transit police shooting of an unarmed man. Heavy police presence greeted Bay Area Rapid Transit commuters Thursday, a day after more than 100 people were arrested in violent protests over the fatal shooting of an unarmed black man by a transit police officer. **AP**



AP

1 Northwest floods

Houses near Kalama, Wash., were surrounded by floodwaters Thursday after major rises on the Kalama river. More than 30,000 people were urged to leave their homes as snowmelt and rain swelled rivers and caused mudslides and avalanches.

2 Cop to face charges

A fugitive police sergeant said Thursday he won't contest being sent back to Alabama, where he's accused of faking his abduction, stealing evidence money and flying to Las Vegas to try to win enough money to pay off personal debts.

Mine deaths down

The number of miners killed on the job in the U.S. fell to 51 in 2008, the fewest number of deaths in nearly a century, according to data released by federal regulators Thursday.

3 Madoff checks

Prosecutors in New York said Thursday that investigators found 100 signed checks worth \$173 million in Bernard Madoff's office desk that he was ready to send out to his closest family and friends at the time of his arrest last month.

4 Bad panda, bad!

A panda at the Beijing zoo bit his third tourist in two years—and this time, his jaws had to be forced open to free the man, who had jumped in to retrieve his son's toy.

5 Gaza violence

The UN suspended relief deliveries to the beleaguered Gaza Strip on Thursday after Israeli soldiers opened fire on a truck that was attempting to deliver aid, killing one UN-contracted truck driver and seriously wounding another.

6 Cruise illness

Hundreds of passengers on a Swiss-owned cruise ship were stricken with severe vomiting and diarrhea caused by a mysterious ailment, Brazilian health officials in Rio de Janeiro said Thursday.

1 ... 2 ... 13 scorpions

9 **LONDON** How do you count scorpions? Very gingerly, it turns out.

"You use tongs and pick them up by the stinger," said London Zoo senior keeper Tony Dobbs on Thursday. "You avoid the pincers at all costs. You could get a nasty nick if you're not counting carefully."

Thursday was counting day at the London Zoo, so Dobbs had to count not only scorpions (13) but also the zoo's meerkats, millipedes, and many other animals.

Really?

Yep. The annual count is a legal requirement for all British zoos, and it's also a useful tool for monitoring animal conservation efforts. Zookeepers say it makes sense to have a census.

NFL PLAYOFFS

Bench pressed?

Donovan McNabb has Eagles soaring after being pulled

MCT

PHILADELPHIA Like a patient hitter working a walk, Donovan McNabb took question after question about his now infamous benching in a Nov. 23 game against the Ravens and sidestepped each one.

Until he swung for the fences—and connected for a verbal home run.

McNabb was about to get up from his seat behind the microphone Wednesday and was wrapping up a question about the Giants' last-season defensive struggles when he tossed a zinging kicker to his belief the Giants don't have a personnel problem but went through a normal slump.

"None of them got benched," he said, erupting into a huge grin that quickly turned into hearty laughter as he left an auditorium at the Eagles' practice facility.

The parting shot was in contrast to his earlier assertion that the benching did not spur him to late-season success.

"I think it is completely coincidental," he said. "I don't think that played a factor into the way I'm playing now."

However, it is quite obvious that as the Eagles prepare to visit Giants Stadium for Sunday's divisional playoff game, they do so with a renewed and rejuvenated McNabb.

No matter how much the veteran quarterback swears coach Andy Reid's shocking decision to bench him at halftime of that Week 12 loss to the Ravens has not spawned the rebirth, the results insist otherwise.

The Eagles are 5-1 since, and McNabb, who had 10 interceptions against 14 touchdowns prior to the



When you go through tough times, you have to go in the locker room and show that none of that affects you."

DONOVAN MCNABB
Philadelphia
quarterback

benching, has two picks against 10 TDs since. The Eagles are one of the hottest teams alive in the playoffs, coming off a regular-season thrashing of Dallas and an opening playoff victory in Minnesota.

"You definitely could see a different Donovan," rookie receiver DeSean Jackson said. "He's out there having fun. When he got benched, he was in a situation where he knew he couldn't come out and not have his best games. We all have so much confidence in him."

The bigger question is how much confidence the Eagles' organization has in McNabb as their quarterback of the future.

Next season is scheduled to be the final of McNabb's current contract, and given his history of love-hate relationship with the fans as well as lingering frostiness over the way Reid handled the benching (as in, not even telling McNabb himself), it remains to be seen if this postseason will be McNabb's Philadelphia farewell.

Bears fans will no doubt be watching closely to see if hometown boy McNabb becomes available.

Even if there remains some future fallout from the decision, Reid is certainly reaping the benefit now. Reid's own job was threatened when the Eagles fell to 5-5-1 after that loss to Baltimore.

But together with McNabb, the Eagles are trying to duplicate the Super Bowl road the Giants paved last season.

"You're talking about one of the all-time greats who ever put on an Eagles uniform," Reid said of his QB. "It's all about him. Sometimes you just need to take a little step back to take a big step forward. I'm grateful for him."

Once McNabb got his starting job back in Week 13 against Arizona and threw four touchdowns in a 48-20 win, the momentum continued to build.

"When you go through tough times, you have to go in the locker room and show that none of that affects you," McNabb said.

"You do what you do to change that. Guys see that confidence."

"Winning cures everything."

DOUBLE THREATS

If an NFL team has a quality running back, good things usually happen. If an NFL team has two quality running backs, that's even better. Several teams find themselves doubling their pleasure at running back in the playoffs.

 James	ARIZONA CARDINALS Edgerrin James: 514 yards, 3 touchdowns Tim Hightower: 399 yards, 10 touchdowns	 Hightower
 McClain	BALTIMORE RAVENS Le'Ron McClain: 902 yards, 10 touchdowns Willis McGahee: 671 yards, 7 touchdowns	 McGahee
 Williams	CAROLINA PANTHERS DeAngelo Williams: 1,515 yards, 18 touchdowns Jonathan Stewart: 836 yards, 10 touchdowns	 Stewart
 Jacobs	NEW YORK GIANTS Brandon Jacobs: 1,089 yards, 15 touchdowns Derrick Ward: 1,025 yards, 2 touchdowns	 Ward
 Johnson	TENNESSEE TITANS Chris Johnson: 1,228 yards, 9 touchdowns LenDale White: 773 yards, 15 touchdowns	 White

SOURCE: NFL. STATISTICS REFLECT REGULAR SEASON ONLY.



THE WHIZZER CHALLENGE

txtable

Take on me. Now that I've put that A-Ha song in your head, hear me out. I get lots of fan mail, especially when I go out on a limb and predict sporting events. Everyone thinks it's so easy to see the

future. I'm here to tell you it's not. Wanna find out for yourself? Read my predictions below for this weekend's NFL playoffs, make your own predictions and text them to me using the directions below. We'll

see if you critics out there can really put your money where your mouth is. Frankly, I prefer putting rawhide or bones where my mouth is, but to each his own. Here now, my picks.

BALTIMORE (12-5)
AT TENNESSEE (13-3)
3:30 p.m. Saturday, CBS

Dominating D. Young quarterback. Impressive record. The Ravens are the Bears of 2006. And they'll likely meet the same unhappy ending as the Bears, but not here.

Baltimore 29, Tennessee 20

ARIZONA (10-7)
AT CAROLINA (12-4)
7:15 p.m. Saturday, Fox

The Cardinals are so fun to watch, which means they'll be bounced out of the playoffs. Oh, well. That just gives Kurt Warner more time to prepare to be the Bears' next QB. He better work on his neckbeard.

Carolina 33, Arizona 19

PHILADELPHIA (10-6-1)
AT N.Y. GIANTS (12-4)
Noon Sunday, Fox

The Giants are scary good. But Philly has something going on that is hard to explain. Donovan McNabb even seems to be understanding the rules of the game.

Philadelphia 27, N.Y. 26

SAN DIEGO (9-8)
AT PITTSBURGH (12-4)
3:45 p.m. Sunday, CBS

LaDainian Tomlinson's groin is hurting, even more so than Steelers QB Ben Roethlisberger's head. Fortunately for the Chargers, LT's backup, Darren Sproles, might actually be better.

Pittsburgh 20, San Diego 17

HOW TO PLAY

Text "**whiz**" followed by a winner for each game and score to **47383**. Don't forget to include your name. Whizzer just might give you a shoutout in Monday's RedEye.

No lie: Ex-Lions coach is on the Bears' radar

I see we might have a family business around here.

Nothing official yet, and it might not even happen, but word is former Detroit Lions head coach Rod Marinelli might be the Bears' defensive line coach, and he might bring his son-in-law along to do lord knows what.

Sarcastic comment No. 1: Gosh, anytime you have a chance to get a coach of an 0-16 team, grab him!

Sarcastic comment No. 2: Detroit, that town reeks of success right now. Anything from there can help.

Both of the preceding statements exclude the Red Wings, of course, because they will be kicking the Hawks' tails from now until the next Great Depression.

Here's the big mystery to me. How is it all the Bears position coaches—the guys you never hear about—are asked to leave but somehow Bob Babich—the guy who oversees the horrid defense—gets to keep his job. Oh, sorry, I forgot—he's Lovie Smith's friend. So is Marinelli, so I can assume he'll have the job forever.

Just a quick update for you: Former Bears D-coordinator Ron Rivera is coaching an awesome defense in this weekend's upcoming divisional playoff game between the Chargers and the Steelers. Ouch. Babich, on the other hand, is left to explain why Tommie Harris, Charles Tillman, Nate Vasher, Brian Urlacher—heck, everyone—regressed under him

Thanks, pal, for making us have to rebuild a once-stellar defense. Can't wait to see who we draft to fix this mess.

Quick note: I hear Kurt Warner may be available this off-season. Please, don't forget to blow this one like you did the last few times he was available. All he wanted last time was a shot at the starting job over—my gosh—Rex Grossman. How'd that one work out for you? Grossman still the starter? That's OK. Jerry Angelo says he needs to get that position right. Hallelujah.

Now for some earth-shattering news. The Cubs found a left-handed bat in Milton Bradley. The downside: Volatility. The guy actually has fire in his belly.

Imagine a Lou Piniella-Carlos Zambrano-Milton Bradley meltdown sometime in August—you'll have Mt. Vesuvius.

It won't, of course, help the team, but it'll make things more fun to watch around here.








sacked again

BAG BOY
redeyesports
@tribune.com

Big D

Dallas Wright sits in for Facebook Fives. You can too at the address above.

					
TOPIC	JIMMY GREENFIELD jgreenfield@tribune.com	TRACY SWARTZ tswartz@tribune.com	BRIAN MOORE brmoore@tribune.com	THAT GUY thatguy@tribune.com	DALLAS WRIGHT redeyesports@tribune.com
1 The NFL playoffs without the Patriots is like a dream come true.	... Tom without Gisele. Other players could worry about banging themselves up.	... Tracy without puns, Jimmy without bourbon and hookers. Weird—but a good weird.	... New Year's Eve without regrets.	... America after January 20th. Better.
2 Pacman Jones needs a new job. What should he do?	Security guard for Plaxico Burress.	Victoria's Secret cashier so can he give \$\$ to women and touch the merchandise.	The Detroit Lions need a new coach. It takes a loser to lead the ultimate losers.	Montessori school teacher.	What he evidently was born to do: run for governor of Illinois.
3 What college quarterback would you pursue if you were the Bears?	Anybody not drafted by Jerry Angelo.	Tim Tebow. Bears, Cubs, Trixies, uncircumsize babies, everyone loves him!	Pretty much anyone with two functioning arms will be better than what we have.	Can you fumble? Can you learn? You're hired!	Mark Sanchez.
4 The Hawks play Nashville twice this weekend. What are the side effects?	Joel Quenneville's mustache will catch the flu and be hospitalized.	Going country twice, just average for Roger Clemens.	Players pick up Southern drawls—or, just as likely, Carrie Underwood or Kellie Pickler.	A sudden urge to make out with your cousin.	Jonathan Toews rapping "Straight Outta Ca\$hville" with Huet on banjo.
5 The Blackhawks don't seem to be missing Patrick Kane. Do you?	Not as long as I keep a pair of his game-day socks with me at all times.	Yes, the city needs someone who knows how to win a shootout against evil.	If you don't miss Kane, you're not Abel.	Only when I watch hockey ... which is never.	About as much as I miss Jay Mariotti. So no, not really.

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HOMETOWN HITS



The Cubs and Milton Bradley wrapped up their \$30 million, three-year deal Thursday after the outfielder passed a physical. Bradley is coming off a productive season with the Texas Rangers. But his onfield talents have often been overshadowed by his outbursts and flashes of anger. "I did it. It's in the past. It's over with," Bradley said during a Wrigley Field news conference. "I'm the ballplayer you see every day. I give my all."



The good news is Luol Deng practiced Thursday for the second straight day. The bad news is Deng's left ankle, still recovering from a Dec. 26 sprain, didn't feel as good, and his return from a six-game absence to play Friday night against the Wizards isn't as certain. "Most likely, I probably won't be able to go," Deng said.



The Northwestern women's tennis team has one-upped itself. A year ago, the Wildcats became the first northern school ranked No. 1 in Division I. Now they find themselves the No. 1 team with the No. 1 player, sophomore Maria Mosolova, heading into the 2009 season.



YOUNGSTOWN ST. 80, UIC 70
Kelvin Bright and Vance Cooksey hit three-pointers during a late 11-0 run that put Youngstown State ahead to stay as the Penguins beat Illinois-Chicago 80-70 on Thursday night. Josh Mayo scored 20 points and Scott Vandermeer had 11 for UIC (5-9, 2-3).



SOUTH DAKOTA ST. 64, WESTERN ILLINOIS 55
Dale Moss scored 13 points and Kai Williams had a double-double as South Dakota State beat Western Illinois 64-55 on Thursday, handing the Leathernecks their first Summit League loss. Western Illinois (3-1, 6-9) was led by David Dubois with 21 points and seven rebounds.

THURSDAY'S RESULTS

- » Colorado 2, Blackhawks 1
- » Cleveland St. 76, Loyola 50
- » Southern Illinois-Edwardsville 80, St. Xavier 72

BCS CHAMPIONSHIP



Florida's Major Wright (center) delivers a hit on Oklahoma receiver Manuel Johnson, forcing an incomplete pass in the first quarter of the BCS Championship. **mcr**

Gators national champs

MIAMI Tim Tebow gave Florida the jolt it needed, and the Gators toughed out a second BCS title in three years.

Their 24-14 win over No. 2 Oklahoma in a choppy, sloppy affair Thursday night made them a national champion. But it did little to quiet fans of Southern California, Utah and Texas, all of whom already claimed the top spot.

The high-scoring shootout between Heisman Trophy winners never materialized. Oklahoma's Sam Bradford couldn't score from in close and Tebow threw two interceptions, as many as he had all season.

Earlier Thursday, Texas congressman Joe Barton proposed legislation to replace the BCS with a playoff system, a change even President-elect Obama said he wants.

Several schools—including Barton's home-state Texas Longhorns (12-1)—believe they are



FLORIDA 24, OKLAHOMA 14



the rightful champions. Fifth-ranked Southern California (12-1) and undefeated Utah (13-0) also have argued they're the best.

The BCS has also been scrutinized on another front. On Tuesday, Utah Atty. Gen. Mark Shurtleff announced he was investigating the BCS for a possible violation of federal antitrust laws. He argued the BCS unfairly puts schools such as Utah, a member of a conference without an automatic bid to the big-money bowls, at a competitive and financial disadvantage.

"Go ask the players how they want it settled," former Miami quarterback Gino Torretta said.

watch dog

WHIZZER
redeyesports
@tribune.com

Sports fans, we are in for a treat this weekend. Well, I always get treats. It's what I've been trained to do.

But, Saturday and Sunday's NFL games should be quality TV. Forget about the Bears' disappointing finish and just enjoy the games, even if the Eagles are playing. The same Eagles the Bears handled early in the season. I had to go there, didn't I?

Here now, my TV picks.



NBA Bulls vs. Washington

7:30 p.m. CSN
The Wizards have a magical ability to turn every game into a loss.

NBA Boston at Cleveland

7 p.m. ESPN
King James and Co. try to dethrone last season's kings of the court. OK, enough with the puns.

WWE Friday Night Smackdown!

7 p.m. MyTV
Triple H competes in three matches in one night. Well his name is Triple, after all.

BASEBALL

Negro Leagues player dies

Joe Henry, the former Negro Leagues player who earned the nickname "Prince" for his skill at entertaining crowds, was mourned by family, friends and baseball fans Thursday in Brooklyn, Ill. Henry died last Friday. He was 78.

FORMULA ONE

Teams agree to cut costs

Formula One teams unanimously agreed to a series of cost-cutting measures Thursday, including limits on expensive testing and a cheaper engine for smaller teams starting in 2010.

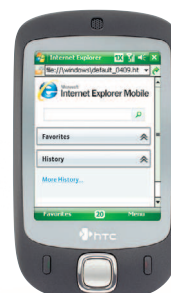
NFL

Here he goes again: Favre mulls future

Brett Favre is going to take his time before deciding whether to return with the New York Jets next season. The 39-year-old quarterback told ESPN on Thursday that he's following the advice of Jets General Manager Mike Tannenbaum by not making a hasty decision.

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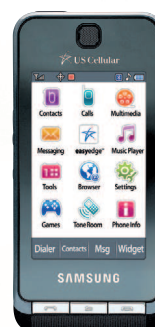
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Laugh attack

weekend best bets

By Beth Geraci
METROMIX@TRIBUNE.COM

Get a winter warm-up with sketch comedy, live music and ghost stories

PICK OF THE WEEK

Pretty sketchy

It's here, and it's ready to roll. The **Chicago Sketch Comedy Festival** laughs into its eighth year with another first: a British comedy group. See Manchester teen troupe The North Briton Theatre Company at 9 p.m. Friday-Saturday. Additional highlights: New York City-based team Elephant Larry (below) returns for a fifth year with sets at 10 p.m. Friday-Saturday, and local all-African-American ensemble Soul Fools takes the stage at 7 p.m. Sunday. The fest continues through Jan. 18 with a whopping 104 groups performing more than 125 shows on three stages; see our Q&A with fest founder Brian Posen and get more fest picks online at metromix.com. \$12.50 per show; \$150 for all-festival pass. Theatre Building Chicago, 1225 W. Belmont Ave. 773-327-5252. Tickets: chicagosketchfest.com



Lumen
FILE FOR METROMIX



BEST OF THE REST

Ghost stories

"The Brides Of Ghost Hunter Richard Crowe: Al Capone Edition" gives classic Chicago lore a feminine touch, boasting a cast of "brides" who sing Prohibition-era tunes and portray tales about local hauntings and gangsters. Stories explore alleged ghost sightings at the St. Valentine's Day massacre site, the Dillinger shooting and more. "Brides" is produced by Chicago Supernatural Tours operator Crowe and local playwright Michael Flores. 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Through Feb. 28. \$10. Liar's Club, 1665 W. Fullerton Ave. 773-665-1110.

The big reveal

The end is near, and for one lucky winner, that means a \$1,000 cash prize. Watch 16 local LGBT artists perform in the finale of **Guys Got Talent**, a six-round contest featuring singing, poetry, comedy, drag and more. Audience votes and a panel of judges decide the winner. Performances by burlesque dancer Hot Toddy, illusionist Angelique Munro and others round out the night. 5 p.m. Saturday. \$5. Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted St. 773-477-9189.

Aztec appetite

You don't need to fly to Mexico—or find a time machine—to get a **Taste of The Aztec World**. The Field Museum has you covered with a new culinary celebration featuring Aztec-inspired food and drink specials at 17 local restaurants, in conjunction with its "Aztec World" exhibition, on display through April 19. Local chefs and mixologists use corn, agave nectar, chocolate, grasshoppers (eek!) and other traditional ingredients to create dishes such as grasshopper guacamole (Nacional 27); braised rabbit with mole (Zocalo); and pork soup with red chili and hominy beans (Kit Kat Lounge). Hours and prices vary. Continues daily through Jan. 17. 312-922-9410. Complete list of participants: metromix.com

PARTY PICKS

Cold one

It has a chilly ring to it, but **Lumen's Winter Freeze** party will be hotter than it sounds. DJ Lil Mikey heats up the scene with high-energy mash-ups and electronic beats. Arrive early for a P.I.N.K. vodka cocktail reception (10-11 p.m.). 10 p.m. Friday. \$10-\$20 after 11 p.m. Lumen, 839 W. Fulton Market. 312-733-2222. R.S.V.P. for reduced admission: RSVP@lumen-chicago.com

Co-operation

Want to party for a good cause? March over to the **Co-Op Image Group Benefit** to see headlining act Mucca Pazza along with electro-pop band Coltrane Motion and experimental outfit Arctic Circle at the sixth annual benefit for at-risk youth. Bonus: A raffle features prizes such as hot sauce and jewelry. 10 p.m. Friday. \$12. Empty Bottle, 1035 N. Western Ave. 773-276-3600.

Sensory seduction

Indulge your senses—and your giving nature—at **A Night of Sight and Sound**. The art party includes visual work from artists Jesse Seay and Danielle Colbeck, plus spoken word performances and live music from The Mojdeh Project and experimental and punk bands Shot of Therapy and Agents of Change. 7 p.m. Friday. \$5-\$8. Proceeds benefit Girls Rock Chicago. Debonair Social Club, 1575 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-227-7990. R.S.V.P. for reduced admission: lethalpoetryco@gmail.com

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Healthy Facts

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Metromix's top party picks

BLU 47

6 p.m.: Bronzeville Boogie. An after-work networking party features DJ Dolla Bill, drink specials and complimentary appetizers. Darry Petty and Toni Bailey host. No cover; 4655 S. King Drive, Second Floor. 773-536-6000.

DEBONAIR SOCIAL CLUB

7 p.m.: A Night of Sight and Sound. Check out work from visual artists, along with performance poetry and live music. DJs spin 11 p.m.-2 a.m. \$5-\$8. RSVP: lethalpoetryco@gmail.com; 1575 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-227-7990.

THE LOFT

8:30 p.m.: Singles Speed Dating Party. Meet other singles for fast dates. Drink specials include \$2 glasses of champagne and domestic bottle beers, as well as \$3 select martinis and mixed drinks. \$35. Registration required: dateanddash.com; 15 W. Division St. 800-957-3274.



Debonair Social Club
FILE FOR METROMIX

BAD DOG TAVERN

Half-price pizzas (11 a.m.-3 p.m.), \$4 Stoli cocktails; 4535 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-334-4040.

BETWEEN BOUTIQUE CAFE AND LOUNGE

\$25 single-malt Scotch flights, \$30 tequila flights, \$30 trios (6-7 p.m.); 1324 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-292-0585.

CLUB ROYALE

6 p.m.: Cocktails and Connections. DJs Markfullaflava and I.N.C. spin. Cover varies; 205 N. Peoria St. 312-666-9400.

THE DUGOUT SPORTS BAR & GRILL

\$3 Captain, Stoli and Three Olives cocktails, \$4 Jager bombs; 950 W. Addison St. 773-281-4213.

THE FULL SHILLING

\$3.50 Blue Moon and Sam Adams Seasonal drafts, \$7.99 all-you-can-eat fish and chips; 3724 N. Clark St. 773-248-3330.

HIDEOUT

\$2 PBR and Old Style cans, \$2.50 Berghoff bottles; 1354 W. Wabasha Ave. 773-227-4433.

JAKE MELNICK'S CORNER TAP

\$4 Heineken and Heineken Light bottles, \$5 Svedka cocktails; 41 E. Superior St. 312-266-0400.

KINCADE'S

\$3.50 Dos Equis drafts, \$5 Captain Morgan cocktails; 950 W. Armitage Ave. 773-348-0010.

LIZZIE MCNEILL'S

\$4 Budweiser American Ale, Killians and Bud Light drafts, \$5 martinis; 400 N. McClurg Ct. 312-467-1992.

MATISSE

\$5 martinis; 674 W. Diversey Pkwy. 773-528-6670.

THE MOTEL BAR

\$5 Absolut cocktails, \$8 blackened tilapia sandwiches, DJ Scott Lucas of Local H spins rock and alternative 10 p.m.-2 a.m.; 600 W. Chicago Ave. 312-822-2900.

MOTHER HUBBARD'S

Free wings with pitcher of Bass Ale, half-price pizza with Bud bucket; 5 W. Hubbard St. 312-828-0007.

MYSTIC CELT

\$4 Amstel Light bottles, \$5 raspberry vodka and lemonades; 3443 N. Southport Ave. 773-529-8550.

OLE LOUNGE

\$4 caipirinhas, half-price select tapas (5-7 p.m.); 2812 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-388-3500.

PURPLE OTTER

\$5 one-topping pizzas; 2706 N. Ashland Ave. 773-248-3331.

THE RAIL BAR & GRILL

\$3 Smithwick's and Guinness pints, \$3.50 Jager shots, \$6.75 all-you-can-eat fish and chips; 4709 N. Damen Ave. 773-878-9400.

ROCKS LINCOLN PARK

\$4 Smirnoff flavored cocktails; 1301 W. Schubert Ave. 773-472-7738.

ROSCOE'S TAVERN

\$3 off martinis and Manhattans, \$14 Stoli pink lemonade pitchers; 3356 N. Halsted St. 773-281-3355.

SALUD

\$4 frozen margaritas; 1471 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-235-5577.

SHEFFIELD'S

\$4 bombs, \$4 drafts, \$5 Effen cocktails, half-price appetizers (4-7 p.m.); 3258 N. Sheffield Ave. 773-281-4989.

SLAINTE

\$3 Labatt and Schlitz drafts, \$5 Jager bombs, live music 10 p.m.; 2138 N. Halsted St. 773-348-3665.

TRINITY BAR

\$3 Blue Moon and Guinness drafts, \$3 cherry vodka cocktails and Stoli flavored cocktails, half-price food (5-7 p.m.); 2721 N. Halsted St. 773-880-9293.

VAIN NIGHTCLUB & LOUNGE

Zoo Fridays. DJs Bear Who?, Trilogy, NewLife and Blakish spin hip-hop, house, R&B and dancehall 10 p.m. \$10; 2354 N. Clybourn Ave. 773-435-0130.

WABASH TAP

\$3 PBR drafts, \$5.50 BLTs; 1233 S. Wabash Ave. 312-360-9488.

WESTEND BAR & GRILL

Half-price appetizers 3-8 p.m.; 1326 W. Madison St. 312-981-7100.

Friday**ALISON RUBLE QUARTET**

10 p.m. \$10 suggested donation. Uncommon Ground on Devon, 1401 W. Devon Ave. 773-465-9801.

BALLAS HOUGH BAND, INEPT, CAMERA

9 p.m. \$15. Abbey Pub, 3420 W. Grace St. 773-478-4408.

BLACK NAG, MRDR, BUGGETTE

8 p.m. \$5-\$8. Bottom Lounge, 1375 W. Lake St. 312-666-6775.

BOTTLE OF JUSTUS, MUNROE, CORY CHISEL AND THE WANDERING SONS, THE INSECURITIES
9 p.m. \$13-\$15. House of Blues, 329 N. Dearborn St. 312-923-2000.

BUDDY GUY, BROTHER JOHN
9 p.m. Sold out. Buddy Guy's Legends, 754 S. Wabash Ave. 312-559-1212, 312-427-0333.

FIFTH WORLD, JOHN WASEM, THE NEW FUSE, LAND OF ATLANTIS

9 p.m. \$8. Double Door, 1572 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-489-3160.

GERONIMO, THE CHAIRS

10 p.m. \$5 donation. Cal's Liquors, 400 S. Wells St. 312-922-6392.

HORSE IN THE SEA, THE DAREDEVIL CHRISTOPHER WRIGHT, BOX OF BABY BIRDS

10 p.m. \$8. Hideout, 1354 W. Wabansia Ave. 773-227-4433.

LIQUID COURAGE, AKTAR AKTAR, THUNDERUNDERUS, THE DIRTY VIBE, FACING WINTER, PURPLE HOTEL
8:30 p.m. \$9. Elbo Room, 2871 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-549-5549.

SHE LIKES TODD, MAGNAFUX, DEAD TOWN REVIVAL, BONE TOSSER, CAPITAL EYE

Metromix's top shows

**The Fray**

THE OPUS
Smooth yet eerie local hip-hop. With Verbal Kent, Lord 360, Lokua. 9:30 p.m. Fri. \$6. Subterranean, 2011 W. North Ave. housecallent.com

MUCCA PAZZA
A wild, sweaty marching band can take down winter with one tuba. With Coltrane Motion. 10 p.m. Fri. \$12. Empty Bottle, 1035 N. Western Ave. 773-276-3600.

Western Ave. 773-276-3600.

THE FRAY
Hey, we're not judgin'. With Vedera. 7:30 p.m. Fri. Sold out. Metro, 3730

8 p.m. \$5-\$8. Reggie's Rock Club, 2109 S. State St. 312-949-0120.

THIS BRIGHT APOCALYPSE, BISHOPS COLLAR, SEEKER
10 p.m. \$8. Martyrs', 3855 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-404-9869.

Saturday

AUDIOBON, LUCID GROUND, ECHO SON, V SPARKS, TEAM ROCKIT
9 p.m. \$5 or free with canned food item. Double Door, 1572 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-489-3160.

BLACKDOG, GREEN SUGAR, COLD WATER MYSTIC, JACKOT DONNIE
8 p.m. \$5-\$8. Bottom Lounge, 1375 W. Lake St. 312-666-6775.

BUDDY GUY, NUBLU BAND
9:30 p.m. Sold out.

N. Clark St. 773-549-0203.

VIRGINIA COALITION
Sometimes you just want your pop-rock to be clean and easy. With Van Ghost. 10 p.m. Fri. \$12-\$14. Schubas, 3159 N. Southport Ave. 773-525-2508.

WALLY DOGGER
The sort of local rock you're glad to hear while you're ordering at the bar. With Champions of Breakfast. 9:30 p.m. Fri. \$8. Beat Kitchen, 2100 W. Belmont Ave. housecallent.com

Buddy Guy's Legends, 754 S. Wabash Ave. 312-427-0333.

THE CHAMBER STRINGS, DORIAN TAJ, THE THIN MAN
10 p.m. \$8. Hideout, 1354 W. Wabansia Ave. 773-227-4433.

CONVICTED, HARM'S WAY, BLACK TEETH, DAMAGES, ICEBERG
6 p.m. \$6-\$8. Beat Kitchen, 2100 W. Belmont Ave. housecallent.com

EARLY APRIL, NOTHING FORGOTTEN, IMPALE, IZEL'S SPIRAL, WIDDLE MONSTERS
5 p.m. \$10. Reggie's Rock Club, 2109 S. State St. 312-949-0120.

ELVIS PRESLEY TRIBUTE ARTIST SPECTACULAR: SHAWN KLUSH, RYAN PELTON, DONNY EDWARDS, D.J. FONTANA
8 p.m. \$31.50-\$45.50. Star Plaza Theatre, 8001 Delaware Pl., Merrillville, Ind. 312-559-1212.

THE FUGLEES, THE GOOD, SUZY BRACK AND THE NEW JACK LORDS
9:30 p.m. \$10. Martyrs', 3855 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-404-9869.

JASON O'DONNELL
10 p.m. Tips/donations. Uncommon Ground on Clark, 3800 N. Clark St. 773-929-3680.

LABELLE
8 p.m. \$50-\$89.50. The Chicago Theatre, 175 N. State St. 312-559-1212.

LITTLE BIG FAT, THE DIGGITY
9 p.m. \$7. The Kinetic Playground, 1113 W. Lawrence Ave. 773-769-5483.

LIZ CARROLL, JOHN DOYLE, BILLY MCCOMISKEY
8 p.m. \$30. World Folk Music Company, 1808 W. 103rd St. 773-779-7059.

MAGIC HASSLE, JOSH MCCORMACK
10:45 p.m. \$7. Subterranean, 2011 W. North Ave. housecallent.com

MOXXY, MAKESHIFT PRODIGY, SIMPLISTIC URGE, A BIRDSONG

»» page 20

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The Hoyle Brothers have been playing a honky-tonk set at the Empty Bottle for the past seven years.

Free music at the CCC

On any day, the Chicago Cultural Center offers an array of, well, cultural events, for free.

The Chicago Cultural Center is at 78 E. Washington St.; 312-744-6630, chicagoculturalcenter.org.

SUNDAYS: The Sunday Salon series is mostly dedicated to presenting classical music but does expand into improvisational and other classical forms. On Jan. 25, the Chicago Consortium of Community Music Schools will offer a program ranging from jazz to solo piano works.

TUESDAYS: Grab a bite to eat, then check out the Jazz, Blues & Beyond LunchBreak Series, described by music critic Howard Reich as “a kind of cabaret presenting crooners, songwriters, folk artists, dancers, performance artists and others who would be unfazed by audiences in motion.” (LunchBreak is held in the Randolph Cafe, where there is a steady flow of foot traffic during the performances.)

FRIDAYS: Get your Balkan fix Jan. 30 at the Music Without Borders series when Balkano brings an infusion of jazz and klezmer. Music Without Borders is a weekly series of world music.

Other free music

MAYOR DALEY: We know, we know. Da Mare shouldn't be free, right? Fear not. No resurrections or moonlighting scions. Mayor Daley does rock. Skittering, irritable, indie-as-heck rock that rips. 9:30 p.m. Monday, Empty Bottle, 1035 N. Western Ave. 773-276-3600. It's part of the venue's Free Mondays, so if you don't go this week, make a date.

'BILLY THURSDAYS: Host Martyrs' prefers the official title Big “C” Jamboree, but whatever. It's rockabilly night on the first Thursday of each month. The host band does a set, followed by a conga line of bands, each performing three songs. It's crazy, and fun. 9:30 p.m. Feb. 5, Martyrs. **TRIBUNE**

Free-for-all

There's no pay-to-play at these local shows

Chicago Tribune

It's the first real week after the holidays, and you're pretty much broke. But you want to have fun. Every week, this town has free shows, events that probably make you suspicious because they're free.

But between curators that cull through thousands of bands and acts looking for the best, to bands that evince an amazing quality of musicianship and art galleries that offer a museum-quality experience, you can spend hours whiling away your weekend—and not pay a cent.

Not that free means cheap ... or bad.

For the past seven years, The Hoyle Brothers have been playing a honky-tonk set at the Empty Bottle. It's country music any way you like it—butter smooth or gritty—as long as you want it beautifully played.

“I think the free thing probably came from the idea that it's hard enough to get people to even cross the street to hear live music,” says Lance Helgeson, drummer for The Hoyle Brothers. “So our thinking is that it gives them

an incentive to come out.”

They work for tips, when they pass a tip jar around, and a piece of the bar if more than 50 people come out. There are evenings when they clear about \$10 per member (of a quintet) after they pay the sound man his \$50. So the Hoyles aren't living the rock-star life.

But man, are they good.

“I think we hear more often than not the comment ‘Hey, this is free? I can't believe this is free,’” Helgeson said. “That

impression is going to be a lasting one, and they're going to come back.”

This is all part of the band's goal of staying together, playing out and making great music. Sure, they'd love to be touring on jets, making \$80,000 per man and living the life. But sometimes, as the title of a ditty done by the Flat Duo Jets suggests, “Dreams Don't Cost A Thing.”

“We're living the dream in our own way,” Helgeson said.

Like the Empty Bottle, the Chicago Cultural Center could have lots of bands playing there for free. Culling from the thousands

The Hoyle Brothers

When: 5:30 p.m. Fridays

Where: Empty Bottle, 1035 N. Western Ave.

Entry: Free

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pop

Kate Hudson
(left) and Anne
Hathaway in
"Bride Wars"
20TH CENTURY FOX

Hudson,
Hathaway
make
veiled
threats
in 'Bride
Wars'

Mean girls?

Chicago Tribune

In the new film "Bride Wars," Anne Hathaway and Kate Hudson play best friends turned nasty nemeses when their weddings are scheduled for the same date. As the co-stars fielded questions recently in Beverly Hills, Calif., to promote their comedy, one question set off a lively conversation. The film opens Friday.

Watching this movie made me wonder: When crossed, are women meaner to each other than men?

Anne Hathaway: I love that everybody thinks we have all these answers. [Laughter.]

Kate Hudson: I grew up with all boys. So did you.

Hathaway: It's hard to say.

Hudson: I think we can be more ... You know what? Yeah. I think so. I think because women are a little bit more complicated, you know what I mean? I think women can really hit you where it hurts.

With a knife or a gun?

Hudson: No, that's men. Men go right for the shins, whereas I think women can be a little more hurtful because we're more emotional. But I don't know. I just feel like being mean is ...

Hathaway: Is awful.

Hudson: Yeah.

Hathaway: Is your question, can female friends be worse to each other, or women in general? Because the fact of the matter is that female friends, I do believe, can be worse to each other than male friends simply because for whatever reason, women have stronger emotional language.

Or even if we don't have a stronger one, we're encouraged more to use it. Kate and I know things about each other that I don't know about our male co-stars, and if Kate and I were to turn on each other, because I know how to celebrate her, [turning to Hudson] I would know how to bring you down. [Laughter.] And you would know the same for me, because when you give

that trust to someone, that is what you're doing.

Hudson: It's so true. 'Cause we talk. Girls talk.

Hathaway: Girls talk about things! We talk about what we're feeling, deep things, deep things in the moment. Maybe not even particularly deep in the grand scheme of things but things that matter to us.

Hudson: You know when you go through relationships and stuff and then all of a sudden you realize, like, God, boys don't have anybody to talk to. That must really be horrible.

Hathaway: I don't know. Do boys talk less?

Hudson: No, they don't. They just don't talk about their feelings.

Hathaway: I know boys that talk about their feelings.

Hudson: They talk to their girlfriends. I have my guy friends call me, and they're like girls. They're like, "Hey, can you talk?" ... They don't talk to boys about it. They really don't. I know my brothers, they talk to me. They don't talk to their friends. I don't think so.

||||| Bride Wars PG

Who's in it: Kate Hudson, Anne Hathaway, Candice Bergen

What it's about: BFFs Liv (Hudson) and Emma (Hathaway) accidentally book their weddings at New York's Plaza Hotel on the same date. Despite promising to be each other's maid of honor, neither will budge, which leads to an increasingly destructive game of sabotage and one-upmanship.

Worth watching?

"It's enough to make you wish Owen Wilson and Vince Vaughn would crash the party and live things up."

CHRISTY LEMIRE, AP



Global warming



Newsday

With Seth Rogen, Jennifer Lopez, Drew Barrymore, Sacha Baron Cohen and others on board as presenters, Sunday's Golden Globe awards ceremony is clearly hoping not to be a repeat of last year's disastrous telecast.

That show amounted to little more than a news conference as actors stayed away in a show of solidarity with the Writers Guild of America, then on strike. The bare-bones broadcast drew its lowest ratings in years.

But on Sunday, viewers can get back to the business of ogling celebrities, marveling at the Globes' typically left-field picks and wondering just how accurately this show predicts the winners of the upcoming Oscars.

Since the fun of any awards show is handicapping the outcome, here are our picks in some categories. The ceremony airs live from The Beverly Hilton Hotel at 7 p.m. Sunday on NBC.

PICK UP MONDAY'S REDEYE FOR COVERAGE OF THE GOLDEN GLOBE AWARDS. THE GOLDEN GLOBES ALSO HAND OUT AWARDS FOR TV. READ MORE AT redyechicago.com/showpatrol

DRAMA

>> Nominees: "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button," "Frost/Nixon," "The Reader," "Revolutionary Road," "Slumdog Millionaire"

>> Should win: "Slumdog Millionaire." Danny Boyle's violent but uplifting tale of a Mumbai orphan is terrifically entertaining.

>> Will win: "Slumdog Millionaire." The themes of poverty and the far-flung setting may resonate with the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, which hands out the awards.

COMEDY/MUSICAL

>> Nominees: "Burn After Reading," "Happy-Go-Lucky," "In Bruges,"

"Mamma Mia!," "Vicky Cristina Barcelona"

>> Should win: "Vicky Cristina Barcelona," Woody Allen's breezily funny but deceptively deep film about love, fate and character.

>> Will win: "Vicky Cristina Barcelona"

SUPPORTING ACTRESS

>> Nominees: Amy Adams, "Doubt"; Penelope Cruz, "Vicky Cristina Barcelona"; Viola Davis, "Doubt"; Marisa Tomei, "The Wrestler"; Kate Winslet, "The Reader"

>> Should win: Tomei, for her brave portrayal of a stripper approaching the end of her earning years.

>> Will win: Cruz. Tomei's performance has gone largely unnoticed, but Cruz drew raves for her role as a hilariously volatile artiste.

ACTRESS/DRAMA

>> Nominees: Anne Hathaway, "Rachel Getting Married"; Angelina Jolie, "Changeling"; Meryl Streep, "Doubt"; Kristin Scott Thomas, "I've Loved You So Long"; Kate Winslet, "Revolutionary Road"

>> Should win: Scott Thomas, for her portrayal of a woman prematurely aged by prison.

>> Will win: Hathaway, whose breakout dramatic role in a more widely seen film has drawn critical praise.

ACTRESS/COMEDY OR MUSICAL

>> Nominees: Rebecca Hall, "Vicky Cristina Barcelona"; Sally Hawkins, "Happy-Go-Lucky"; Frances McDormand, "Burn After Reading"; Meryl Streep, "Mamma Mia!"; Emma Thompson, "Last Chance Harvey"

>> Should win: Hawkins. As an unsinkably optimistic schoolteacher named Poppy, she manages to be both endearing and irritating.

>> Will win: Hawkins

SUPPORTING ACTOR

>> Nominees: Tom Cruise, "Tropic Thunder"; Robert Downey Jr., "Tropic Thunder"; Ralph Fiennes, "The Duchess"; Philip Seymour Hoffman, "Doubt"; Heath Ledger, "The Dark Knight"

>> Should win: Ledger. His Joker is the most memorable and mesmerizing screen villain in years.

>> Will win: Ledger

ACTOR/DRAMA

>> Nominees: Leonardo DiCaprio, "Revolutionary Road"; Frank Langella, "Frost/Nixon"; Sean Penn, "Milk"; Brad Pitt, "The Curious Case Of Benjamin Button"; Mickey Rourke, "The Wrestler"

>> Should win: Penn, who virtually reincarnates the openly gay politician Harvey Milk.

>> Will win: Rourke, whose gutsy comeback role as a broken-down wrestler makes a better backstory.

ACTOR/COMEDY OR MUSICAL

>> Nominees: Javier Bardem, "Vicky Cristina Barcelona"; Colin Farrell, "In Bruges"; James Franco, "Pineapple Express"; Brendan Gleeson, "In Bruges"; Dustin Hoffman, "Last Chance Harvey"

>> Should win: Bardem, who plays a cliched Latin lover with surprising depth, complexity and humor.

>> Will win: Bardem

DIRECTOR

>> Nominees: Danny Boyle, "Slumdog Millionaire"; Stephen Daldry, "The Reader"; David Fincher, "The Curious Case Of Benjamin Button"; Ron Howard, "Frost/Nixon"; Sam Mendes, "Revolutionary Road"

>> Should win: Boyle. The vigorous and lively "Slumdog" trounces the somber, often sentimental competition.

>> Will win: Boyle



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DOUBT
@jpperez As a former altar boy and recovering Catholic, I have my doubts on Doubt. Saw it, wasn't that impressed. I imagine it was better as a play.

VALKYRIE
@salkover Tom Cruise-led Hitler assassination plot wd have ended war, Holocaust. WWII period piece not exciting; worth a look.



MARLEY & ME
@drinkbourbon Marley & Me, or, The Horrors of Dog Ownership. Couple gets dog. Kathleen Turner looks AWFUL. Alan Arkin hilarious. Dog dies.
@phantomtweeter First I hated that damn dog! And then I fell in love with it. Great movie.
@redeyechicago Marley & Me—tearjerker but a nice story. Jennifer Aniston looks great. Oh, and working at a newspaper? Not that way at all.

THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON
@RoxieRavenclaw Excellent movie. Life sure does get a LOT more interesting when it's lived a lil in reverse, doesn't it? :)
@angryfilipino07 Button was one of most powerful piece of film I have ever seen. Every detail was superb.
@allisonyochim nicely done CG, a bit long but the symbolism and random details make the flick. Pitt's hotness too.

RICHARD CORLISS, TIME

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ANDREW SARRIS, THE NEW YORK OBSERVER

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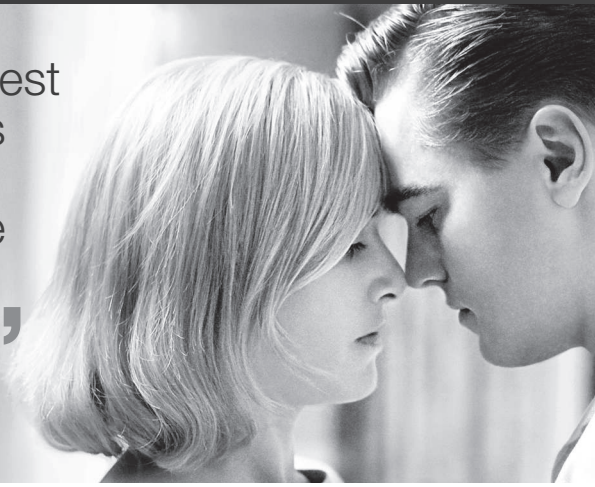
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Morris Chestnut and Taraji P. Henson in "Not Easily Broken"
TRISTAR PICTURES



‘Broken’ beyond repair

Dave (Morris Chestnut) and Clarice's (Taraji P. Henson) once-happy marriage hits a rough patch after she's injured in a car accident and later, after recovering, suspects that he's cheating on her with her physical therapist.

Not helping things is Clarice's mom (Jenifer Lewis), who moves into their house and constantly antagonizes Dave.

The buzz: The film is based on the novel by Pastor T.D. Jakes ("Woman Thou Art Loosed"), so viewers can expect blunt messages of faith and fidelity. But at least this is a story in which people actually identify and try to solve their marital problems, unlike the two hours of screaming and unexamined misery that is "Revolutionary Road."

The verdict: Um, thanks for the lecture. It's one thing to have your heart in the right place and another to lunge at the audience until they're effectively devouring your chest. "Broken" constantly double-checks that we get its points, which seems to be that mothers-in-law are a big ol' pain and women shouldn't be too independent because it emasculates men.

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**NOT EASILY
BROKEN (PG-13)**



ALSO OUT FRIDAY



The Unborn (PG-13)

Who's in it: Odette Yustman (left), Gary Oldman, Cam Gigandet, Meagan Good, Jane Alexander

What it's about: The spirit of a twin who died in the womb haunts his living sister, Chicago teen Casey Beldon (Yustman). This leads Casey to a skeptical rabbi (Oldman) who agrees to perform an ancient Hebrew demon-banishing rite.

Worth watching? "It's no worse than most contemporary genre fare, and the film actually has some well-wrought scare scenes and a few good laughs (some more intentional than others)."

BOB STRAUSS, L.A. DAILY NEWS



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MUSIC I Am You

Available soon
Viewers watching the Season 2 debut of CBS' "Flashpoint" at 8 p.m. Friday can look forward to this smartly written folk tune by Ohio singer-songwriter Kim Taylor. I love it, so much so that I e-mailed her rep when I couldn't find the song online. It has yet to be released, but soon will be posted on Taylor's MySpace page and at **kim-taylor.net**. For now, you can listen at **redeyechicago.com/showpatrol**.
C.W.



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Things that turn us on

TV Stargate Atlantis

8 p.m. Friday, SciFi

The space series airs its 100th and final episode with the aptly titled "Enemy at the Gate." It's not the best "SGA" episode, but it's a nice goodbye, with Amanda Tapping's Colonel Samantha Carter (above) and other favorites coming back. They're all battling the alien Wraith, who have found their way to Earth. Atlantis and its crew race to destroy the advanced hive ship, giving fans a thrilling space battle. If you know what this means, you're stoked like I am. If not, turn to USA for the return of "Psych" (right) and laugh as Shawn and Gus investigate the murder of Shabby the sea lion. **CURT WAGNER, REDEYE**



MOVIES Timecrimes

Opens Friday at the Music Box Theatre
The microbudget Spanish time-travel thriller "Timecrimes" confines itself to four characters and a poker-faced approach to a ridiculous scenario. It's enough to say that Hector flees an assailant who has stabbed him by hiding in a mysterious tank filled with milky liquid. When he steps out of the tank a few seconds later, it's 90 minutes ago. I like this idea—why should all time travel involve decades or centuries or epochs?

MICHAEL PHILLIPS, TRIBUNE



Haines, Alaska

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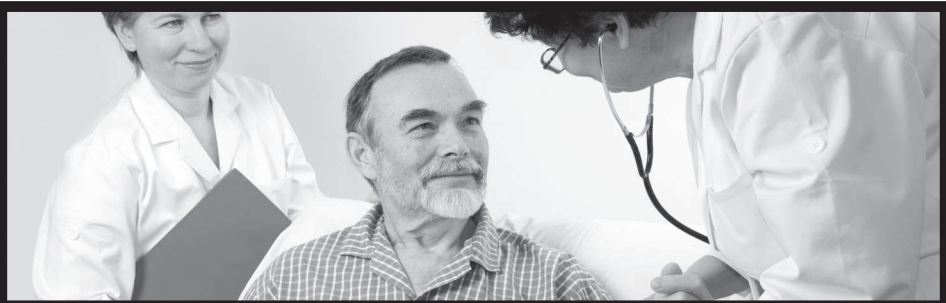
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Regal ribbons

Anthropologie necklace, \$42 at Anthropologie



Melly M Ribbon cuff, \$24 at mellym.com



frugal

JOANNA GUSTAFSON
ritaredeye@tribune.com

Inspired by French fashion house Lanvin, ribbon-enhanced necklaces and bracelets have been showing up on women everywhere. You can achieve the delicate, ballet-inspired look without spending super designer prices.

FRUGAL FASHIONISTA JOANNA GUSTAFSON IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.



J. Crew necklace, \$55 at J. Crew

Forever 21 necklace, \$6.80 at Forever 21



Merona bracelet, \$9.99 at Target



Dior necklace, \$55 at Nordstrom



Marciano necklace, \$88 at marciano.com

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POP ROYALTY

In case you haven't heard, Michael Jackson is living in Bel Air. That's right: The King of Pop is bunking in the neighborhood made famous by the Fresh Prince. Talk about a dynasty!

Jackson has signed a yearlong lease on a mansion in the swanky area of L.A., a spokesman for The Gloved One told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

He has been staying in the estate for about a month, said spokesman Tohme Tohme, who called the property "a little bit more than an average home."

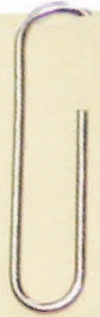
The lease agreement is for \$100,000 a month for the home, which has seven bedrooms, 13 bathrooms and 12 fireplaces.

In honor of Jackson's new digs, RedEye wrote a welcome song to the tune of the theme from "The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air," Will Smith's sitcom from back in the day. Enjoy!

Now, this is a story all about how
My life has dipped, gone way way down
And I'd like to take a minute
Just sit right there
I'll tell you how the King of Pop moved out to Bel Air

In an alternate universe, born and raised
At Neverland is where I spent most of my days
Moonwalkin' out and dancin' all cool
And all getting plastic surgery and not wearing shoes
When a couple of media who were up to no good
Started making trouble in my neighborhood
I got in one protracted legal battle and my monkey got scared
He said "Eeep eep eeepa eep eep eeepa Bel Air!"

I whistled for a spaceship and when it came near
The aliens said they missed me and my glove's on the mirror!
If anything this shuttle was rare
I said yo whatever and flew straight to Bel Air
I pulled up to the house about a quarter to five
And I yelled to the paparazzi, "Yo, what up, guys?"
I looked at my kingdom, I was finally there
In my kooky new pad in the heart of Bel Air.





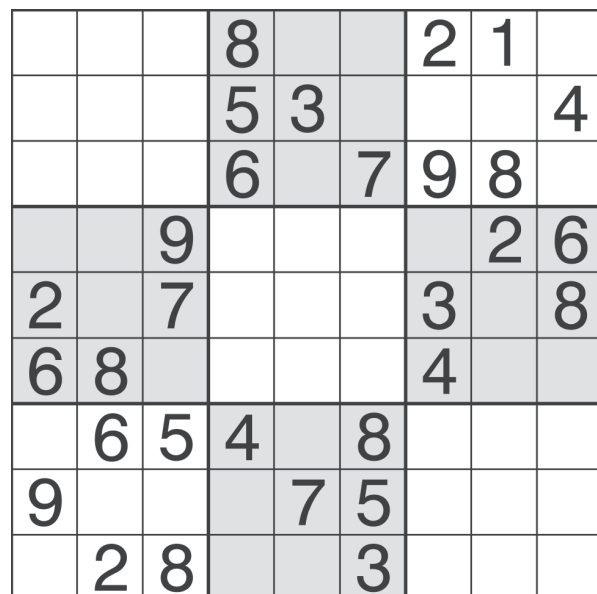
Jackson
GETTY IMAGES FILE

txtable



Jordan Nichols of Ravenswood gave up—John rocked it with a fast 14 minutes. E-mail redyededitor@tribune.com or text “John” and your e-mail address to 32332 to play.

14 min. gave up



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

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6	2	7	5	8	3	4	1	9
9	1	4	2	7	6	5	8	3
2	5	6	7	3	8	1	9	4
1	4	8	6	9	5	3	7	2
7	3	9	1	4	2	8	6	5
8	6	2	3	5	1	9	4	7
4	7	5	8	2	9	6	3	1
3	9	1	4	6	7	2	5	8

THURSDAY'S SOLUTIONS

A	T	L	A	S	D	E	B	A	R	L	O	W
L	O	I	R	E	E	R	A	S	E	A	A	H
G	A	M	M	A	P	E	E	P	S	P	S	I
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H	U	R		O	N	E	S	I	D	E	D	
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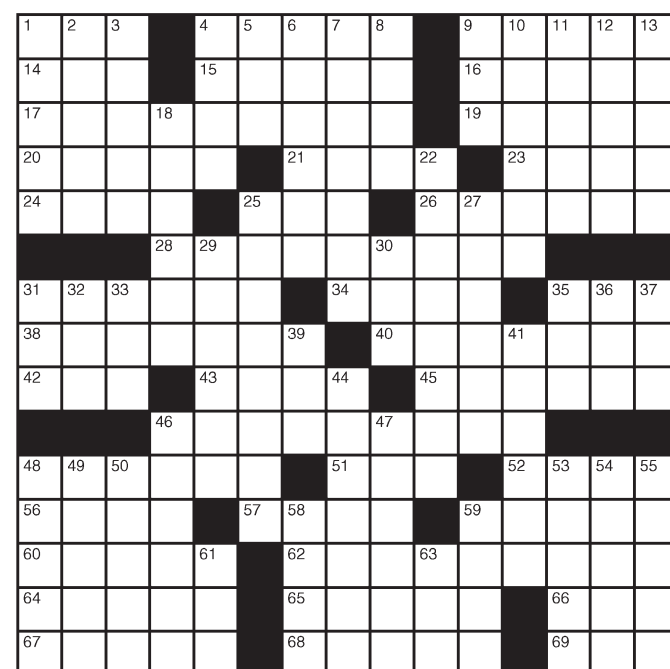
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

ACROSS

- 1 Obstruct
- 4 Old World lizard
- 9 Separate
- 14 Commit perjury
- 15 Surround
- 16 Also-ran in 2000
- 17 No more than
- 19 Viscous
- 20 Shoo!
- 21 -friendly
- 23 Afternoon parties
- 24 Archaic pronoun
- 25 Aardvark snack
- 26 Exceedingly sudden
- 28 Like Mormon saints
- 31 Affront
- 34 Bog substance
- 35 Island dip
- 38 Unit of verse
- 40 Upsetting
- 42 Make a blunder
- 43 Author Blyton
- 45 Female addresses
- 46 One way to pitch
- 48 Fluffy dessert
- 51 Anderson of Jethro Tull
- 52 -as ABC
- 56 -Royale, MI
- 57 Falls back
- 59 Mediterranean island
- 60 Pop
- 62 Something thrust out
- 64 Flat fish
- 65 Frozen rain
- 66 Make a choice
- 67 Fortune cards
- 68 Transmits
- 69 Cold War letters

DOWN

- 1 Big party
- 2 Gee follower
- 3 So out it's in
- 4 Attention-getting sound
- 5 Ritzy rock
- 6 Quantity



- 7 False move
- 8 Chip in a chip
- 9 Part of Q & A
- 10 Trivial
- 11 French so long
- 12 Chart again
- 13 Lovers' meeting
- 18 Use a pulley
- 22 Detection equipment operator
- 25 Audience member
- 27 Luzon Island battle
- 29 site
- 30 Ginsberg and Drury
- 31 Ump's cohort
- 32 Chill
- 33 Scand. country
- 34 Big - CA
- 35 Links grp.
- 36 Resistance unit
- 37 "Not Unusual"
- 39 Dead heat
- 41 Cow organs
- 44 Bounce a basketball
- 46 Did, but doesn't now
- 47 Hurry up
- 48 Center
- 49 Japanese port
- 50 Of an arm bone
- 53 Vowel quintet
- 54 Breaks off
- 55 Gossipy woman
- 58 Big cheese
- 59 Slices and dices
- 61 So far
- 63 Highest alert

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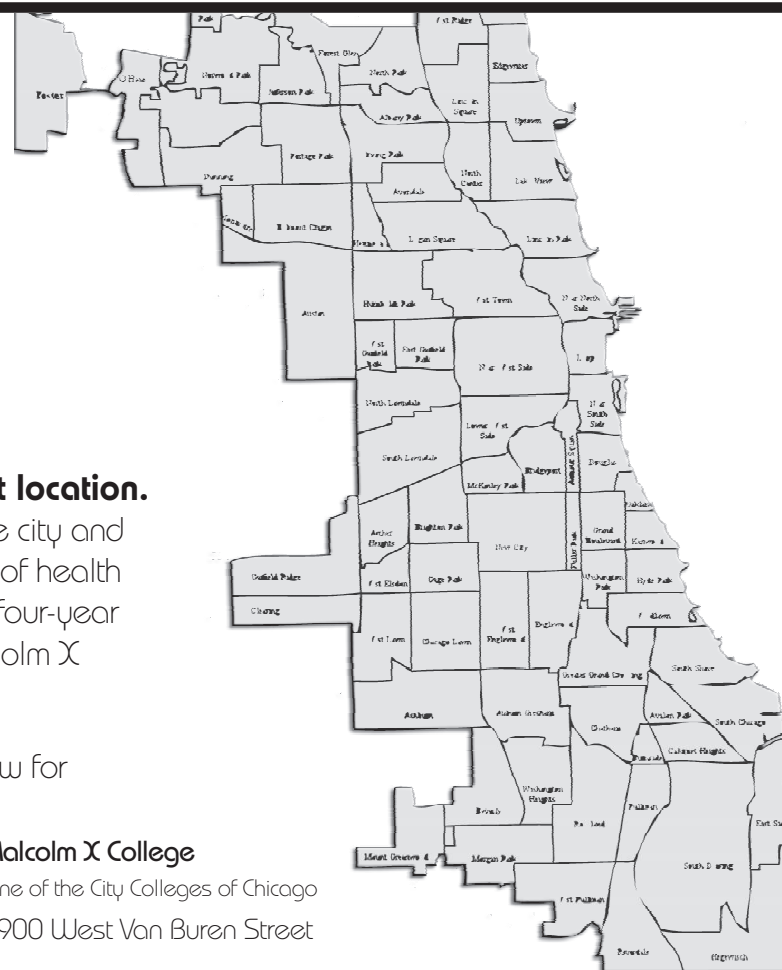
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Damage control

Poor Lindsay Lohan. She's not perfect, you know.

Despite landing in rehab three times and getting two DUIs, the actress laments her bad-girl reputation in *Interview* magazine's February issue, saying, "I lived maybe six months out of my life like that ... and then I stopped."

"What hurts me the most is that I work just as hard as any actress my age, like Scarlett Johansson, but I just don't get the opportunities that they get because people are so distracted by the mess I created in my life," Lohan says, according to excerpts from usmagazine.com.



Hero worship

The next U.S. president apparently hangs with Spider-Man.

Marvel Comics announced that issue No. 583 of "The Amazing Spider-Man" will hit stands on Wednesday with two different covers, one of them a special Inauguration Day edition that shows our favorite arachnid with the president-elect. Check it.

Casting role call

Could Mickey Rourke go from washed-up wrestler to superhero?

The "Wrestler" actor is in talks to play a main character in "Iron Man 2," *Variety* reports. The first "Iron Man," which starred Robert Downey Jr., grossed more than \$600 million worldwide, according to *Variety*.

Elsewhere in the movie-verse, *Twilight*ers were rejoicing on the news that Taylor Lautner is a lock to play Jacob Black again in the "Twilight" sequel "New Moon."



THE VELVET ROPE



Co-ed par-tay

Soon-to-be husband and wife Fergie and Josh Duhamel are doing everything together—including their bachelor/bachelorette party. The couple and 75 of their closet friends attended a co-ed bash Wednesday in L.A., people.com reports. Among the guests, of course, was Fergie's Black Eyed Peas bandmate will.i.am.

Got that?

Nakoa-Wolf Manakauapo Namakaeha Momoa: Name of former "Cosby Show" actress Lisa Bonet's new baby boy. Bonet, 41, has a daughter Zoe, 20, with ex-husband Lenny Kravitz and a daughter Lola, 20 months, with boyfriend Jason Momoa.



R. Kelly on the market

R. Kelly is officially single, according to an attorney for the R&B producer and singer. Kelly and now ex-wife Andrea ended their 11-year-marriage on Thursday, according to R. Kelly's divorce attorney, James Quigley.

The former couple—reportedly estranged during the time of Kelly's trial and subsequent acquittal on child pornography charges last summer—will share joint custody of their three children, Quigley said.

Jett Travolta memorial

John Travolta and Kelly Preston held a private memorial service for their son Jett on Thursday in Ocala, Fla. Jett, 16, died at the family vacation home in the Bahamas last week. An autopsy was performed Monday, but results have not been released.



'Loser' arrest

Shanon Thomas (left), a contestant on the new season of "The Biggest Loser" could face more than three months in jail if convicted of domestic violence, usmagazine.com reports. She has been charged with throwing flour in the face of a tenant in a

building in Michigan.

THE DIGIT

10

Number of friends Facebook users must ditch to earn a free

Whopper coupon from Burger King, adweek.com reports. The fast-food chain's Whopper Sacrifice Facebook app sends a notification to the banished friend via Facebook's news feed. The app is available on Facebook and at whoppersacrifice.com.





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